UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,594	01/22/2002	Roland E. Williams	P-2180	6960

24214   7590   09/25/2007
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EXAMINER
VO, HUYEN X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/25/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
		10/055,594	WILLIAMS, ROLAND E.
		Examiner	Art Unit
		Huyen X. Vo	2626

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _27 March 2007_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-10_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-10_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _22 January 2002_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Ito (US 6243675) in view of Coon et al. (US 6539358).

3.   Regarding claim 1, Ito discloses the steps of receiving an instruction for

language-specific processing from the appliance (*language is identified by the appliance*

and appropriate dictionary is selected); and sending resulting data of the language-

specific processing to the appliance (*selected dictionary is used to recognize input*

speech and result of the recognition is sent back to the appliance, referring to figures 1-

2 and 5). Ito fails to specifically disclose a language processing and memory module

which is physically attachable to and detachable from an appliance, which is configured

to communicate directly with the appliance when so attached without the use of a

network which extends outside the appliance, and which is configured to perform

language-specific tasks at the request of the appliance. However, Coon et al. teach a

language processing and memory module (*docking station in figure 2*) which is

physically attachable to and detachable from an appliance (*PDA or telephone*), which is

configured to communicate directly with the appliance when so attached without the use

of a network which extends outside the appliance, and which is configured to perform

language-specific tasks at the request of the appliance (*figures 1-2, PDA or telephone*

unit is physically attachable to and detachable from the docking station).

4.   Regarding claim 2, Ito further discloses the language processing and memory

module of claim 1 wherein the language processing and memory module is configured

to perform language-specific tasks according to a subject language at the requests of

the appliance by also: receiving data representing a character in the subject language

(*figures 4-5*); and sending data specifying a graphical representation of the character to

the appliance (*inherently in the system of Ito because Japanese, English and German*

use different character fonts).

5.   Regarding claim 3, Ito further discloses the language processing and memory

module of claim 1 wherein the language processing and memory module is configured

to perform language-specific tasks according to a subject language at the request of the

appliance by also: receiving data representing a user input gesture (*user selects*

language, col. 5, lines 13-23); and sending data representing one or more language

units of the subject language in accordance with the user input gesture (*select*

dictionary, col. 5, lines 13-67 or figure 5).

6.   Regarding claims 4-6, Ito further discloses the language processing and memory

module of claim 3 wherein the language units are characters (*dictionary 30 in figure 2*),

wherein the language units are words (*dictionary 30 in figure 2*), wherein the language

units are phrases (*dictionary 30 in figure 2*).

7.   Regarding claim 7, Ito further discloses the language processing and memory

module of claim 3 wherein sending comprises: selecting the one or more language units

according to one or more preceding language units, which were previously specified by

the user (*figure2, system identify the language intended by the user and select that*

language).

8.   Regarding claim 10, Ito further discloses the language processing and memory

module of claim 3 wherein the language processing and memory module is configured

to perform language-specific tasks according to the subject language at the request of

the appliance by also: sending data representing one or more language unit

components which are of the subject language and which correspond to the user input

gesture (*figure 2, system identifies the language of the user's input and select*

appropriate dictionary).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (US 6243675) in view of Coon et al. (US 6539358), and further in view of Bellegarda et al. (US 6208971).

11. Regarding claims 8-9, Ito fails to specifically disclose the language processing and memory module of claim 7 wherein selecting comprises: determining word-continuation and name-continuation relationships between the preceding language units and the one or more language units. However, Bellegarda et al. teach determining word-continuation and name-continuation relationships between the preceding language units and the one or more language units (*col. 3, lines 1-11, further details referring to col. 4, line 39 to col. 5, line 67, current word depends on previous words*).

Since Ito and Bellegarda et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Ito by incorporating the teaching of Bellegarda et al. in order to speech command recognition accuracy.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen X. Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.
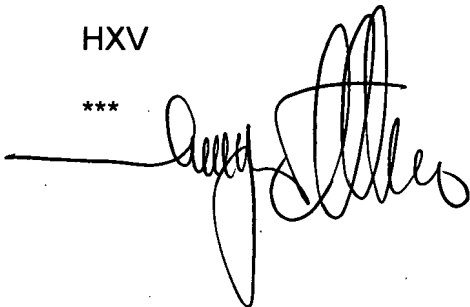
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HXV   9/7/2007

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